



SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
BRANDON BARNES  
SHERIFF – CORONER

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DATE: June 25, 2019  
TO: Michael Johnson, Foreman, Sutter County Grand Jury  
FR: Sheriff Brandon Barnes  
SUBJECT: 2018-2019 Grand Jury Response

ENDORSED FILED

SEP 26 2019

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SUTTER  
CLERK OF THE COURT  
By JACKIE LASWELL Deputy

As a newly elected Sheriff, I wanted to express my appreciation of the Grand Jury and the role they play in helping to bring deficiencies to our attention and guiding the Office of the Sheriff to provide better services to our community. I have reviewed the proposed report and offer the following responses to both the "Findings" and the "Recommendations" suggested by the Grand Jury.

**SUTTER COUNTY JAIL**

**FINDINGS:**

F1 The GED class is currently not available to inmates because there is no instructor.

**F1 Response:** The Sheriff's Office disagrees with the finding. The Sheriff's Office does not deny this has been a challenge in the past, however as of 06-17-19, the Sheriff's Office is receiving services through the Sutter County One Stop. A GED instructor is on site teaching GED courses 3 days per week.

F2 Lack of classroom space limits class availability.

**F2 Response:** The Sheriff's Office disagrees with the finding. Both the main jail and the minimum-security facility have adequate classroom space. Additionally, the AB900 jail expansion project includes an additional (third) classroom for inmate programs. The Sheriff's Office has also entered into a contract for jail tablets, to provide additional educational and entertainment options for the inmates.

F3 Inmates are routinely transported between the medium security facility and the main jail through an unsecured area.

**F3 Response:** The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.

F4 The alley at the south side of the Sheriff's Office is unsecured and accessible to the public.

**F4 Response:** The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding.



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RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1 An instructor for the GED class should be found and GED classes resumed.

**R1 Response:** The recommendation has been implemented. As of 06-27-19, the Sheriff's Office is receiving services through the Sutter County One Stop. A GED instructor is on site teaching GED courses 3 days per week.

R2 Find and dedicate classroom space for offered courses.

**R2 Response:** The recommendation has been implemented. There are currently two classrooms dedicated to inmate programming, one in the main jail and one in the minimum-security facility. Additionally, a third classroom will be implemented with the completion of the AB900 projects in July of 2019. This will allow for ample programming space. The Sheriff's Office has also entered into a contract for jail tablets to provide additional educational and entertainment options for the inmates.

R3 A secured fence with an automatic gate should be installed between the Sheriff's Office and the medium jail facility by January 1, 2020.

**R3 Response:** The recommendation requires further analysis. The Sheriff recognizes the security concerns on the exterior of the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Budget cannot solely support a project of this type. The Sheriff is working with the interim County CAO and the Director of Developmental Services for potential solutions. The goal is to find a funding source during the 19/20 fiscal year with hopes of implementing construction of the exterior fencing and automatic gates in the 20/21 fiscal year.

R4 A secured automatic gate should be installed at the entrance to the alley on the south side of the Sheriff's Department Building by January 1, 2020.

**R4 Response:** The recommendation requires further analysis. The Sheriff recognizes the security concerns on the exterior of the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Budget cannot solely support a project of this type. The Sheriff is working with the interim County CAO and the Director of Developmental Services for potential solutions. The goal is to find a funding source during the 19/20 fiscal year with hopes of implementing construction of the exterior fencing and automatic gates in the 20/21 fiscal year.